Developmental Disabilities Council Self-Determination and Employment Workgroup

Best Western-Fife

DRAFT July 15, 2004 Meeting Minutes

Present: Lee Ruddy, BJ Flaherty, Mike Raymond, Diana Zottman, Mike Hatch, Phil Jordan, Sherri Huwe, Rita Wang and Vicki Foster

Absent: Joelle Brouner

Staff: Clare Billings and Stephanie Benfield

Call to order/Agenda

Diana Z. brought the meeting to order and shared that she volunteered to chair the workgroup meeting in Joelle's absence.

Approval of Minutes

Phil asked that sheltered workshops be removed from a statement that he made from the last meetings minutes. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as amended.

Follow up Discussion on Process for Next State Plan
Lee R. pointed out that if the workgroup has discussion
about what they are going to request of DVR in the form of
data, DVR could provide a lot of data and information.
Lee also suggested that this workgroup and the others
have the same discussion about requests to other state

agencies. Workgroup members came up with the following list of issues and agencies they may need to contact to collect data:

- WorkSource Centers
- Ticket to Work Status
- Sheltered Workshops and transition programs
- Self Advocacy report
- Activities of other advocacy groups like Parent Coalitions
- REW
- WISE
- Partnership 20/20
- PC2
- WPAS
- DVR

Staff will create a list to review for the next meeting, along with the Advocacy project reports from the Arc. Clare will bring a brief overview of what the feds say to focus on and the state plan requirements.

The timeline the workgroup set out to get additional information to prepare for the next state plan is as follows:

Review list of Agencies

Any needed presentations

Send Questions to agencies

Recv' data & responses

Workgroup Review

November 2004

January 2005

March 2005

June 1, 2005

July 2005

Clare pointed out if there is a need for discussion that does not fit in the regular workgroup time we could convene for additional meetings or conference calls. #4 on the timetable will take a lot of time and guide #5-12

State Plan Amendments Reading 04 SD-10

The minor tweaks this workgroup made to the current state plan received no public comment. The information was sent out for public comment to an extensive list of stakeholders and interested parties. The Council is voting on the amendment to the State Plan on Friday.

Leadership project update Reading 04 SD-7

The Council received 12 proposals for local leadership projects. The proposals were reviewed by a panel from the Leadership Adivisory Committee – Sue Elliott, Arc of Washington, Cassie Johnston, PAVE and Cecile Lindquist, retired UW/CHHD and former Council member. The following proposals were selected for funding are The Kitsap County Parent Coalition for a project in Jefferson County, The Arc of Tri-Cities, focusing on Hispanic members of the community, and Stevens County Parent to Parent, focusing on youths and their parents. The Arc of Spokane will provide technical assistance to Stevens County as for the first time the project leader is not a past graduate of the Leadership program.

Agency Report - DVR

Lee reported that DVR has recently gone through the process of developing contracts for all of their employment service providers in the state. This mean changes in purchasing and WAC. The next step is to do the same process for Independent Living and Assistive Technology

provider, which will take another 4-5 years. This will be Lee's primary responsibility, and he will not be able to attend council meetings on a regular basis. Connee Bush the Chief Operations officer that oversees the Data Unit has been designated by Michael O'Brien to be DVR's representative to the Council and will be coming in Lee's place.

Clare asked if DVR has introduced any new policies on transition age youth. Lee said there has been nothing new developed, however for people that have SSP funds those funds are now being called EDDP. For people that have an account with the county EDDP funds are being used for comparable benefits services to DVR services. Phil asked to clarify if these funds were considered the counties funds or the individuals. Lee said it is a confusing point, however if the funds do accumulate they can count against an individuals SSI benefits. The person to contact with these types of questions would be Linda Lundsford the program manager for EDDP.

Emerging Issues in Self Determination and Employment

Lee stated that DVR's federal grant has not changed in 5 years, the apportionment formula is based on three criteria: Population = small state

Unemployment rate = slightly higher than average

Per Capita income = high, which reduces how much funding the state receives

There are not enough funds to serve all that are in need, so there is currently a 6-month wait list for DVR services.

Workgroup members talked about changing this by advocating for a change in the apportionment formula and increase revenue. Members agreed that focusing on transition age youth would be a good focus, because of the lack of funding. A good thing to do would be to strengthen the statement about revenue generating in the legislative agenda.

Mike Raymond and BJ gave an update on the Ellensburg employment conference, which was a great training opportunity, and Kenny Miller did a great presentation on self-employment.

September agenda

- Updated reports on Advocacy Partnership & Self-Advocacy Initiative projects – changes of roles in Arc staff on the two projects
- Update on federal issues/employment & State Plan Amendment
- Update on workgroup projects
- Microboards, self-employment

Future meetings: Report on Ticket to Work - Abby Cooper, DVR

Meeting was adjourned.